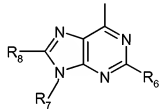
Please amend claims 1 and 10 and cancel claim 7.

In the claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1)

$$R_1\text{–}A\text{–}X\text{–}CH_2\text{–}R_3\text{–}R_4\text{–}L_1 \qquad (1)$$

wherein
the group R_1–A is a purine radical of formula (2)



(2)

X is oxygen;
R_1 is a group $-R_2-L_2$;
R_2 and R_4 are, independently of each other, a straight or branched chain alkylene group or polyvalent branched chain alkyl group with 1 to 300 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by a lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower acyloxy or halogen wherein optionally

(a) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by oxygen;

(b) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by nitrogen carrying a hydrogen atom, and the adjacent carbon atom is substituted by oxo;

(c) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by oxygen, and the adjacent carbon atom is substituted by oxo;

(d) the bond between two adjacent carbon atoms is a double or a triple bond;

(e) one or more carbon atoms are replaced by a phenylene, a saturated or unsaturated cycloalkylene, a saturated or unsaturated bicycloalkylene, a divalent heteroaromatic or a divalent saturated or unsaturated heterocyclyl group;

(f) two adjacent carbon atoms are replaced by a disulfide linkage;

or a combination of two or more alkylene and/or modified alkylene groups as defined under (a) to (f) hereinbefore;
R_3 is an aromatic or a heteroaromatic group, or an optionally substituted 1-alkenylene, 1-alkynylene, 1-cycloalkenylene, or an unsaturated heterocyclyl group with the double bond connected to CH_2;
R_6 is hydrogen, hydroxy or unsubstituted ~~or substituted~~ amino; one of R_7 or R_8 is R_1 and the other one is hydrogen; and

L_1 and L_2 are the same or different labels and each is selected from the group consisting of a fluorophore or a chromophore, a magnetic probe, a contrast reagent, a radioactive moiety, avidin, streptavidin, biotin, a moiety which is capable of crosslinking to other molecules selected from a maleimide, an activated carboxy group, an azide and a benzophenone; a tethered metal-chelate which is capable of generating hydroxyl radicals upon exposure to H_2O_2, ascorbate, malachite green, ~~a moiety covalently attached to~~ a solid support, a lipid, methotrexate, a linear poly(arginine) of D- and/or L-arginine with 6-15 arginine residues, oligomers of 6-50 subunits wherein at least one subunit has an attached guanidine group or a peptide having an RKKRRQRRR amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1); or

L_1 is a bond connecting R_4 to A forming a cyclic substrate; a further group $-R_3-CH_2-X-A-R_1$~~,~~ or a nucleic acid or a derivative thereof capable of undergoing base-pairing with its complementary strand; or if R_7 is a hydrogen then L_2 is capable of undergoing base-pairing with its complementary strand where L_2 is a nucleic acid or a peptide nucleic acid ~~L_2 is a nucleic acid or derivative thereof capable of undergoing base-pairing with its complementary strand if R_7 is hydrogen~~.

2. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_3 is phenylene, an unsubstituted or substituted mono- or bicyclic divalent heteroaryl group of 5 or 6 rings atoms comprising zero, one, two, three or four ring nitrogen atoms and zero or one oxygen atom and zero or one sulfur atom, with the proviso that at least one ring carbon atom is replaced by a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom, 1-alkenylene, 1-alkinylene, 1-cyclohexenylene with 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein the double or triple bond is connected to CH_2, or an optionally substituted unsaturated divalent heterocyclyl group with 3 to 12 atoms and 1 to 5 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and a double bond in the position connecting the heterocyclyl group to CH_2.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_3 is phenylene.

5. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_3 is thienylene.

6. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_6 is unsubstituted amino, R_7 is R_1, and R_8 is hydrogen.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein L_2 is a fluorophore or a chromophore.

9. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein L_1 is a fluorophore or a chromophore and L_2 is a fluorophore or a chromophore.

10. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 9, wherein ~~each of~~ L_1 is a fluorescence donor and L_2 is a fluorescence quencher or L_1 is a fluorescence quencher and L_2 is a fluorescence donor~~. and L_2 represents a fluorescence donor or fluorescence quencher.~~

11. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 10, wherein L_1 and L_2 constitute a FRET pair.

12-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_6 is unsubstituted amino, R_7 is hydrogen, and R_8 is R_1.

15. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_6 is unsubstituted amino, R_7 is hydrogen, and R_8 is a group $-R_2-L_2$.

16. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L_2 is a fluorophore or a chromophore.

17. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 16, wherein L_1 is a fluorophore or a chromophore.

18. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 17, wherein L_1 and L_2 constitute a fluorescence donor or a fluorescence quencher.

19. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 18, wherein L_1 and L_2 constitute a donor or an acceptor in a FRET pair.

20. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L_2 is avidin, streptavidin or biotin.

21. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L_2 is a moiety covalently attached to a solid support.

22. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 15, wherein L_2 is a linear poly(arginine) of D- and/or L-arginine with 6-15 arginine residues, an oligomer of 6-50 subunits wherein at least one subunit has an attached guanidine group or a peptide having an RKKRRQRRR amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:1).

23-43 (cancelled)

44. (previously presented) A method for detecting a protein of interest, wherein the protein of interest is fused to an mutant of a human AGT, the method comprising:

(a) contacting the AGT fusion protein with a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1; and

(b) detecting the AGT fusion protein using label L_1 and/or L_2 in a system designed for recognizing and/or handling the label.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein in the compound of formula (1) L_2 is a solid support, and the AGT fusion protein contacted with the compound of formula (1) is separated from the compound of formula (1) by filtration or centrifugation or separation of magnetic beads.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein in the compound of formula (1) L_1 is one member and L_2 the other member of two interacting chromophores or fluorophores, wherein energy can be transferred nonradiatively through dynamic or static quenching, and the AGT fusion protein is detected by fluorescence.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44 for detecting a protein of interest, wherein the protein of interest is fused with a mutant of a human AGT, comprising:

(a) contacting the mutant of the human AGT fusion protein ~~is~~ with a mixture of

(i) a compound of formula (1) wherein R_1 additionally comprises R_5, wherein R_5 is a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocyclyl group which does not react with the mutant AGT; and

(ii) another compound of formula (1), which reacts with the mutant AGT fusion protein; and